

Alternative A: No Action

SUMMARY

Alternative A (the status quo or no-action alternative) would continue current conditions at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. It provides a baseline for evaluating change and related environmental effects of the other alternatives. Park managers would continue to provide for visitor use and would respond to natural and cultural resource management concerns according to current policy and legal requirements as funding allowed. There would be no change in current management direction.

This alternative would provide a minimal necessary orientation to jazz in New Orleans, as well as information on jazz history and personalities. This concept recognizes the many venues in New Orleans that feature jazz and emphasizes enjoyment through listening more than interpretation or education. Orientation and information would be provided through personal and nonpersonal services. Interpretation would be mostly through personal services and partnerships. Visitor experiences would occur mostly at non-Park Service sites.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND INTERPRETATION

Park headquarters would be developed to include an attended information area, and visitors would have the opportunity to speak with NPS staff or volunteers. Orientation media would include brochures, other publications, and maps. Information would be available on area nightclubs and performance locations, parades, concerts, special events, and historic sites such as musicians' homes and former entertainment venues. The overall goals for orientation media and personal contacts would be to help visitors seek jazz-related experiences in the area and would summarize the significance of the park story. The park would continue either on its own or

with partners to provide opportunities for the public to experience and appreciate jazz performances.

Many important services would be available through partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and the private sector. The Park Service would depend substantially on other organizations to provide jazz interpretation, education, and performances. Activities such as interpreted performances ("informances") would occur at a variety of locations; the Park Service would work with organizations to help organize, coordinate, and publicize these events. The Park Service would also work with commercial performance venues to facilitate effective marketing and publicity, to accurately orient visitors to appropriate locations, and to encourage the expansion of commercial opportunities to include those related to park themes and visitor experience goals. Outlying sites would be interpreted through conducted tours provided by the private sector and by self-guided tours prepared by partners, the private sector, and the Park Service. Wayside exhibits or plaques could be placed at or near important sites.

EDUCATION

As staff and time permit, the park would continue a limited outreach program to support ongoing educational activities and develop new educational programs. Educational programs would be provided primarily through cooperative agreements with area schools, musicians, agencies, and organizations. All programs would be offsite and would be developed and presented primarily by non-NPS personnel. Classes would include jazz appreciation, theory, performance, and history. Emphasis would be given to low-income students and to those with little previous access to NPS services or resources. NPS involvement would be mainly through financial and organizational assistance; the

New Orleans Jazz Commission would play a key role in developing criteria for financial support, managing the disbursement of funds, and developing and maintaining partnerships.

PRESERVATION

The park would begin to develop a cultural resource database and a resource management plan as funding and staff permitted. Historic preservation would remain a high priority and any cultural resources that came to the park would be treated following federal legislative requirements and NPS practices and policies. As available funding allowed, research would be conducted to fill identified gaps in knowledge; particular emphasis would be placed on expediting oral history interviews and documentation.

The park would continue to direct researchers to existing archives and be a clearing house for jazz-related activities in New Orleans. Partnerships with archival institutions would be expanded where the federal government could contribute to preservation and public access. Public access to archival records would be enhanced through enhanced availability of information by such means as personal consultation and internet web site pages.

As funding permitted, cultural preservation efforts would include limited support of the jazz parade tradition through cooperative agreements, financial support, music instruction, and employment for interpretation and educational programs. The Park Service would work with a variety of partners. It would develop a citywide mechanism for equitably disbursing funds to defray some parade permit and security costs to mutual aid and benevolent societies and social aid and pleasure clubs. The New Orleans Jazz Commission would play an integral role in these efforts.

OPERATIONS — FACILITY OPTIONS

Under alternative A park operations would be administered through the current headquarters. Programs, concerts, and educational activities

would be provided through partnerships and contracts with the private sector. This alternative would not provide any visitor center services.

Under alternative A the park would continue to function largely as it does presently. Because it would acquire no property, NPS management zoning would be unnecessary.

CARRYING CAPACITY

Currently the park has insufficient data to develop carrying capacity guidelines. However, the park could develop an implementation plan, possibly based on the NPS Visitor Experience and Resource Protection decision-making framework (NPS 1997), to articulate such guidelines. The development of this plan would depend on available funding levels.

COSTS

The estimated facility development costs⁴ for implementing alternative A would consist of current park operational costs that would increase gradually over time. Currently, planned park interpretive materials are budgeted at \$100,000, and personal services contracting (musicians) would continue at about \$63,600 per year. Annual personnel and operating costs are estimated at \$356,000 and \$156,000 (see appendix F for details).

4. All cost figures in this document are in 1997 dollars and are preliminary "class C" estimates. Actual costs at the time of development/implementation would be higher due to inflation and specific construction requirements and salary rates in effect as the time of implementation. Costs are presented for comparison purposes only.

**TABLE 1: TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS
ALTERNATIVE A**

No Development of Buildings, etc.	\$0
Orientation Materials and Displays	\$100,000
Total*	\$100,000

*Does not include any office furniture or
other furnishings

**TABLE 2: TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATING
COSTS ALTERNATIVE A**

Personnel	\$356,000
Operations	\$156,000
Personal Services (Musicians)	\$63,600
Total	\$575,600